

Christianity Among Celestials---How Missionaries Have Roused Yellow Giant to Action---Work of Protestants



Typewriting is taught.



Y. M. C. A. Boys of Shanghai.



The Protestant Missionaries Have Over 2,000 Primary Schools.



The Billiard Room Attendants the Better Class Chinese.

I want to tell you what the missionaries are doing in China. Both Protestants and Catholics are the advance guard of the modern movement, the heaven which has started the great batch of Chinese dough to working. They were the first to stir up the dry bones of the Celestial civilization, and they are now everywhere aiding in putting the flesh and blood of our Western methods upon them.

Introduced by the Catholics. The missionaries have been laboring here for several centuries. The Catholics were the first on the ground. They were here represented by the Nestorians as far back as the eighth century, and when Marco Polo visited Cathay he found Catholics here. Later still came the Jesuits, led by Saint Francis Xavier, who, like Moses, died when on the edge of the promised land, and actively pushed by Matthew Ricci, who was making converts in the Yangtze Valley less than 100 years after Columbus discovered America. It was Jesuit priests who made the beautiful astronomical instruments at Peking and who introduced the first inkling of Western civilization centuries ago. Since then Catholics of other denominations have come, and now there are here Franciscans, Augustines, Vincen-

tians and missions of that church from Belgium, France, Spain and Germany. According to a geography of China just issued by the Jesuits, the Catholic Church now reckons its following at 1,000,000 believers who have been baptized. It has forty-two bishops, 1,700 priests, and has about 6,000 chapels. Of its priests 1,200 are foreigners.

The Work of the Protestants. As to the Protestants, their foreign staff now numbers about 3,500, of whom less than 1,500 are men and almost 2,000 are women. Of the latter 1,000 are married and 954 single. The Protestants have more than 5,000 mission stations scattered over the empire, and they claim altogether about 250,000 of a Christian community. They began their work only a little more than 100 years ago, and at first made way but slowly. As far back as seventy years since they had only six converts in the empire, and in 1855 only 2,000. Ten years later their converts had increased to 13,000, and in the next decade that number had doubled. At present there are between 2,000 and 3,000 native Protestant congregations, and their baptized Chinese number about 180,000. The missionaries claim that this increase is gratifying, and say that if they advance during the next generation in the same ratio as in the past, they will have at the end of that time have over 25,000,000 communicants and a Christian community of over 100,000,000. This is one-fourth of the whole Chinese nation. I give these figures from missionary authorities and teaching in the Chinese government schools, and most of the textbooks are of their composition. The first Chinese-English dictionary was made by the first Protestant missionary to China. This was Rev. Robert Morrison, who arrived here in 1807.

School Work Among the Missions. The great education movement which is now going on in China was started by the missionaries and is largely carried on by them. Many of them are teaching in the Chinese government schools, and most of the textbooks are of their composition. The first Chinese-English dictionary was made by the first Protestant missionary to China. This was Rev. Robert Morrison, who arrived here in 1807.

In connection with Dr. Milne, he also made the first Chinese Bible. It was Mr. Wylie, of the London Mission, who prepared the first Chinese school books on mathematics, and later textbooks on other subjects, including geology, were written by Milne, Edkins and Williamson. The chief authorities on international law and political economy now in use in the government academies and colleges were prepared by Dr. W. A. P. Martin, and geographies and other books by Dr. C. L. Toney, the Chinese secretary of our legation at Peking.

The printing press was brought into China by the missionaries. Dr. S. Wells Williams used the first metal type at Canton, and the first power press was brought to Shanghai by the Presbyterian board.

To-day the Presbyterian Press at Shanghai is perhaps the largest publishing house in Asia. It is pouring forth Bibles, books, tracts and magazines at the rate of 90,000,000 pages per annum, and is distributing them all over China. In addition there is the Mission Press of the American Methodists, which is pouring the country with Christian literature of one kind and another.

Both of these establishments are publishing school books. As to Bibles, they are distributed by the American Bible Society, which first came here about seventy-five years ago. It now sends out about 150,000 volumes per year, and altogether its circulation has run high into the millions.

A Great Educational Work. But I started to speak about mission schools. They are to be found everywhere. There are boys' schools and girls' schools, and kindergartens for both sexes. There are primary schools, intermediate schools and high schools, as well as colleges of arts, medicine and theology. The Catholics have a university at Shanghai and a college at Peking. The Protestants have a university at Shanghai and a college at Peking. The Protestants have a university at Shanghai and a college at Peking.

passed by the Protestants in this branch of mission labor.

According to the latest figures, the Protestant missionaries have over 2,000 primary schools and 359 high schools and colleges. In the primary schools 35,000 boys and more than 7,000 girls are now in attendance, and in the higher schools there are 12,900

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young men and almost 3,000 young women. These seem but small numbers in comparison with the 12,900,000 or 14,000,000 pupils in our public schools, but each of these Chinese students will be a working force in the reorganization of the empire, and this will be especially so with the women. The government schools for girls are crying for Chinese teachers, and the missionaries tell me that it is almost impossible for them to hold their girls until they graduate, because of the salaries offered them to leave and go teaching outside.

The Medical Work. There is one phase of mission work which is approved of by both Chinese and foreigners. The Chinese welcome it and contribute largely to its support. I refer to the medical missions. They are doing an enormous amount of good. They are to be found in all the large centers, and the doctors connected with them could, if they would, leave and make fortunes by practicing among the wealthy Chinese. Notwithstanding this, they stay with their work and, on pitifully low salaries, wear themselves out. The Protestants have now in China 166 hospitals and 241 dispensaries. They are treating more than 1,000,000 out-patients each year, and this is in addition to the 35,000 odd in the hospitals proper. Every well equipped mission station has its dispensary and hospital, and the people are brought in for miles around.

A great deal of work is done by women doctors, who have been educated for the purpose in the United States. Moreover, medical colleges for teaching native women have lately been opened, and in time China will have its own female physicians.

Young Men's Christian Association. A new influence which has recently come into Asia is our Young Men's Christian Association. It is already one of the live forces of this part of the world, and is doing wonders along educational and other lines. It has a firm foothold in Japan. Where the Tokyo branch has a magnificent building with some thousand members. At Seoul a big modern structure has been put up by John Wanamaker, and the society is the most popular young men's club of the Korean capital, while here at Shanghai the institution building has with its lot, cost some \$200,000, and is as fully equipped as the average Young Men's Christian Association of the United States.

The Shanghai building is lighted by electricity and heated by hot water. It has large classrooms, with American desks, lecture rooms and club parlors; it has a modern gymnasium and up-to-date bathrooms. When I visited the gymnasium to-day, four hundred Chinese young men were working away under a physical trainer, and the yellow-skinned fellows were doing almost as well as the boys of our colleges.

The Shanghai Institution has a lecture hall which holds 700; it has a well patronized reading room, with Chinese and foreign papers and periodicals, and also a billiard room, which attracts the better class of Chinese young men. The school rooms, which, when the building was opened, were supposed to be large enough for the next ten years, were taxed to their utmost capacity before the first year was ended, and they are now occupied from morning until late at night. About 400 students are being prepared for college at a cost of \$12 per year, and there are also classes for Chinese college graduates. There are evening classes for boys and men. Typewriting is taught and stenography to secretaries are made.

The Shanghai Association. This Shanghai Association is supported by the natives; and this is true of nearly all the Young Men's Christian Association in the empire. There is a large association in Peking, another in Tientsin, and others in Canton, Suchow, Hangchow, Hankow and elsewhere. There are over seventy-five connected with the colleges and other schools of China, and branches are starting in all of the great business centers.

The merchants and literati are interested in the Young Men's Christian Association movement. There are 500 Chinese men and scholars of note who belong to the Shanghai Institution, and each of these pays \$50 a year to-

ward its support. This gives it an income from that source alone of \$25,000 per annum, and the regular tuition fees bring in considerable. The awakening of China is creating a great demand for Chinese who can speak and write English, and the boys know that they can get five times as much salary if they are so equipped. This fact is crowding the day schools of the association with pupils who wish to learn English, and the night classes are full of such men.

China and the Olympic Games. The athletic feature also forms a great drawing card. When the Young Men's Christian Association came to China, ten years ago, the natives had no interest in athletics. The old Chinese scholar prided himself upon his green goggles, his long finger nails, his attenuated form and his hollow chest. With the bringing of athletics into the public schools and the organization of military drill everywhere, physical exercise has become popular, and the secretaries of the association have now no trouble in filling their gymnasiums. They have organized field days at the different centers, and eight or ten thousand come to such places as Tientsin to take part in the annual meets. There are 3,000 students in the modern schools of Tientsin, and the interest in such matters there is so great that an address was recently delivered to the students of the government schools on the subject, "When Will China Win the Olympic Games?" Indeed, it is safe to say that before many years both the Chinese and the Japanese will be found in all international athletic competitions, and it will not be surprising if an Asiatic some day wins the Marathon.

I find a trained physical director here in charge of the Shanghai gymnasium. He will start a national training school for physical directors, and native Chinese so trained will go out from here to hold professorships, not only in other Young Men's Christian Association's, but in the new schools and colleges, which the government is everywhere starting.

College-Bred Secretaries. "Tell me something about the foreign designers who are working here in the Young Men's Christian Association," said I.

"We have thirty-two Americans, Canadian and English secretaries in China and Korea, all of whom are working under the auspices of our Institution."

Another striking illustration of the enterprise of these organizations was the assistance which the Chinese students got when they went to Japan. Just after the signing of the Portsmouth treaty between Russia and Japan, the Chinese began to go to the latter country for study. They came at the rate of about 15,000 a year. They were away from home and consequently easily reached by influence, good or bad. The Young Men's Christian Association, of Tokio, received them with open arms, gave quarters for them, started classes in English and had meetings at which from twelve to fifteen hundred were present at once. It exerted an enormous influence, and this is even now felt in China.

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ternational committee. These men are university trained; they represent such colleges as Oxford and Cambridge, England, and Yale, Princeton, Cornell and McGill in America. We have also graduates of our Western institutions, and several from our theological seminaries. The Tientsin Association was started eight years ago by Robert Galley, the great Princeton centre rush, and he has been reinforced by Robertson, who was formerly professor of mechanical engineering in Purdue, and by Cole, who was a fellow in McGill. The secretaries are all men of high class.

Patronized by the Officials. I am surprised at the high Chinese officials who are interested in the Young Men's Christian Association movement. Yuan Shih Kai, the great general and statesman, has subscribed a great deal to the association at Tientsin and Peking. Tong Shao Yi has given a great deal, as has also Wu Ting-fang, the former ambassador to Washington. Chen Min Yen is a member of the optium commission, belongs to the national commission.

Many of the leading institutions and business firms of China are subscribing to the Young Men's Christian Association. The Chinese Merchant Steamship Company recently gave over \$1,000 to the Shanghai association, and in that company there are sixty sustaining members, each of whom pays \$50 a year.

Teaching the Chinese Professors. The Young Men's Christian Association are doing much in the new education of China. There are students' associations in various schools and colleges which have a membership of 50,000. They publish a paper called China's Young Men, which has a circulation of about 4,000, and goes into every province of the empire, and in addition to this there are something like 12,000 copies of other publications printed each year.

Robertson, of Tientsin, recently brought out a cabinet containing apparatus for the performance of 500 different experiments in physics, and he invited the professors and educational authorities to witness them. The result was a great success, and a result physics was introduced in many of the schools. Nearly every association has its stereopticon lectures, and the audience halls are well filled.

The secretaries are ready to do all work of the kind along the line of the new movement. Not once ago the educational authorities of Tientsin wanted to introduce electro-plate into their industrial schools.

They imported a costly apparatus from abroad, but could not make it work. They called upon one of the secretaries of the Young Men's Christian Association, who happened to be an expert on this very line. He put the apparatus into shape and has been conducting the classes with splendid success for two years.

At present here at Shanghai and Tientsin bureaus of advice have been established for Chinese students going abroad. Here the young men can buy their tickets, learn all about the character and standing of the great colleges of America, England and Germany, and have letters of introduction which will help them on their way.

Another striking illustration of the enterprise of these organizations was the assistance which the Chinese students got when they went to Japan. Just after the signing of the Portsmouth treaty between Russia and Japan, the Chinese began to go to the latter country for study. They came at the rate of about 15,000 a year. They were away from home and consequently easily reached by influence, good or bad. The Young Men's Christian Association, of Tokio, received them with open arms, gave quarters for them, started classes in English and had meetings at which from twelve to fifteen hundred were present at once. It exerted an enormous influence, and this is even now felt in China.

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PROGRESSIVE AVIATION.

Public Interest Subsidizing, But Foreign Nations Are Busily Experimenting.

Although less public interest has recently been attached to aviation in this country than was the case some months ago, foreign countries still seem to retain the enthusiasm in the sport or science which was shown at the time of the celebrated contests at Rheims, France, last summer. The aviation interested our people for a brief time as a novelty, they have uttered their surprise at the rapid progress in the development of the practical possibilities connected with it. Although the government purchased a Baldwin dirigible balloon and a Wright aeroplane after a series of sensational trials, it does not appear that any practical steps have been taken to properly supply the signal service of the army with a proper equipment of either dirigible balloons or aeroplanes. In the meantime the European countries, particularly France and Germany, have continued to show the liveliest sort of interest in aviation. Both France and Germany have provided a considerable dirigible balloon outfit for their armies and both powers are steadily experimenting with aeroplanes.

It is true that a number of fatal accidents have marred the trial trips of some of the machines, but these happenings do not appear to have in any way dampened the ardor of those engaged in developing the science of aviation. Not less than four fatal mishaps have occurred to daring aeroplanists, while the tragic deaths of four French army officers in a government dirigible several months ago will be readily recalled.

The early enthusiasm over the success of aviators for a time blinded people to the risks that inevitably attach to such experiments. That more accidents have not occurred than the record shows is remarkable, but those that have happened serve as a warning that, however great the progress already made, the science has not yet reached a stage where it can be considered even reasonably safe. In the light of that fact it seems strange that the Wright brothers should show such a determination to retain the aeroplane field to themselves in this country.—New Orleans Picayune.

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